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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138407 TOSEC 060018
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 138407 TOSEC 060018

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRASILIA 4826 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ASUNCION
BOGOTA BUENOS AIRES MONTEVIDEO RIO DE JANEIRO SA PAULO
DATED JUN 13:

QTE: UNCLAS BRASILIA 4826

DEPT PASS USDEL OASGA GRENADA TO SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG OAS BR SHUM ECON XA
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES US APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
COFFEE PRICES, HANDLING OF MISSIONARIES AND STUDENT
INCIDENTS

1.SUMMARY: SPEAKING AT AN IMPROMPTU AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE
IN RIO JUNE 11 ENROUTE TO GRENADA, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA
CRITICIZED THE US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE FOR BEING "ONE-
EYED, LOOKING AT ONLY ONE SIDE." ALSO DECLARED THAT
MRS. CARTER HAD REAFFIRMED THE USG COMMITMENT TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PRESIDENT GEISEL. SILVEIRA
STATED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY
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VANCE AT THE OASGA, OR RELATIONS WITH US IN GENERAL, TO
BE AFFECTED BY REPERCUSSIONS FROM MRS. CARTER'S MEETINGS WITH
US MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE ON THE US PARTY'S ACCEPTANCE OF A
LETTER FROM STRIKING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSIDERING THE US APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS
BEING PARTIAL AND "ONE-EYED," SILVEIRA CRITIZED THE US

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PRESS FOR WHAT HE TERMED ITS "INCORRECT, UNJUST AND
EXAGGERATED" COVERAGE OF THE ARREST OF TWO AMERICAN
MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE, WHOM HE NOTED ARE IN GOOD
CONDITION, WHILE MORE OR LESS IGNORING THE TURMOIL IN
CHICAGO IN WHICH "POLICE KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 133 PUERTO RICANS."
ACCORDING TO O GLOBO,
SILVEIRA WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR IN
THE US MORE OFTEN THAN IS REALIZED,RECALLING A 1974
CASE IN WHICH TWO PRESUMED TERRORISTS WERE KILLED BY
MISTAKE BY US POLICE. ACCORDING TO O GLOBO'S VERSION,
SILVEIRA ALSO EXPRESSED "SHOCK" AND INCOMPREHENSION WITH
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR HAVING RELEASED ONLY PART OF
THE NOTE DELIVERED TO ITAMARATY IN CONNECTION WITH THE
IMPRISONMENT OF THE TWO MISSIONARIES: "FROM A DOCUMENT
THAT BEINGS BY THANKING THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE
ACTIONS IT WAS TAKING WITH REGARD TO THE MISSIONARIES, THE
EMBASSY PRESS OFFICE RELEASED ONLY THAT PART (OF THE NOTE)
WHICH REFERRED TO WASHINGTON'S CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION
OF THE TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARRESTED IN RECIFE."

3. THE FONMIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS MEETING WITH
SECRETARY VANCE--OR RELATIONS WITH THE US IN GENERAL--TO BE
AFFECTED BY THE REACTION OF THE AMERICAN PRESS AND PUBLIC
TO THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE TWO MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE BY
THE LETTER GIVEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN BY UNIVERSITY
OF BRASILIA STUDENTS. O GLOBO VERSION HAD SILVEIRA SAYING
THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER IT "VERY SERIOUS" IF TODMAN DID
IN FACT PROVIDE COPIES OF THE LETTER TO JOURNALISTS, AS
HAS BEEN ALLEGED BY PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SOURCES. JORNAL DO
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BRASIL, HOWEVER, REPORTED SILVEIRA WAS ASKED ABOUT
POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LETTER AFFAIR AND REPLIED THAT,
IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF ANY PROOF WHICH CONFIRMS OR REBUTS
IT, HE HOPED IT WAS NOT SO AS IT WOULD BE "UNDUE
INTERFERENCE."

4. SILVEIRA STATED THAT HIS MEETING IN PARIS WITH
SECRETARY VANCE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT HE HOPED
THAT THE TWO COULD DISCUSS IN GRENADA SOME ISOLATED
PROBLEMS OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE, SUCH AS THE FACT THAT
"36 PERCENT OF BRAZILIAN EXPORTS TO THE US RUN THE RISK OF
UNILATERAL (TARIFF) MEASURES." HE ADDED THAT
BRAZIL DOES NOT TODAY HAVE AN AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENT WITH
ANY OTHER NATION: "IT (BRAZIL) HAS FRIENDSHIPS. IT HAS
A TRADITION OF GOOD RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY
TO EXPLORE THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND ALSO TO TRY AND OVERCOME
THE AREAS OF DIVERGENCE, AS LONG AS THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE
ANY COMPROMISE OF BRAZILIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS." SILVEIRA
ADDED THAT THE VOLUME OF US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS MAKES SOME

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DIFFERENCES INEVITABLE.

5. SILVEIRA REITERATED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD REAFFIRMED THE USG COMMITMENT TO THE MOU TO HIMSELF, PRESIDENT GEISEL, AND AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, ADDING THAT SHE WAS VERY WELL BRIEFED ON THE MATTER. AND HAD CALLED FOR EARLY MEETINGS OF THE TRADE AND ENERGY SUBGROUPS. COMMENTING ON MRS. CARTER'S STATEMENT IN BOGOTA ON HIGH COFFEE PRICES, HE ALSO STATED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD SHOWN SOME UNDERSTANDING HERE OF THE COFFEE PROBLEM, WHICH HE NOTED WAS A PRICE INCREASE CAUSED BY SCARCITY. THEN SILVEIRA ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY AMERICANS RESENT THE HIGH PRICE OF COFFEE AND NOT THAT OF OIL.

6. SILVEIRA ALSO MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE ITAIPU PROJECT, SAYING THAT BRAZIL COULD ACCEPT A DECISION BY PARAGUAY IN FAVOR OF EITHER 50 OR 60 CYCLES, "BECAUSE IT
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WILL NOT PREJUDICE BRAZIL IN EITHER CASE." HE REFUSED ANY FURTHER COMMENT, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT THE DECISION WAS PARAGUAY'S TO MAKE AND HE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE.
CRIMMINS
UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: TOSEC, HUMAN RIGHTS, COFFEE, PRESS CONFERENCES, MISSIONARIES, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: PORG, SHUM, ECON, ETRD, BR, XA, US, OAS, (AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, ANTONIO F)
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